Anti-Corruption Drive

3112. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch an anti-corruption drive;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act; if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware of the order issued by the Bureau of Public Enterprises that officers of public sector undertakings, other than the Chairman; managing Directors and board members; would not come in the ambit of the Central Vigilance Commission;

(e) if so, what are the reasons for divesting the CVC of its control; and

(f) the extent to which the corruption is likely to be eliminated by this steps of the Bureau of Public Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A three pronged strategy i.e. Preventive, surveillance and detection and deterrent punitive action, has been adopted to fight corruption. An 'action plan' along with a calendar of vigilance action have been advised to all Ministries/Departments. Certain important measures being taken include identification of corruption prone areas, simplification of rules and procedures, strengthening departmental vigilance machinery, expeditious finalisation of vigilance cases, regular review of the cases of the Government servants who attain the age of 50|55 years or who will be completing 30 years of service with a view to weed out the corrupt and inefficient elements, and a close watch on the officers of doubtful integrity. The question of introducing a comprehensive Prevention of Corruption Bill to make the provisions of the existing anti-corruption laws mor effective is under consideration.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The orders dated 27.10.86 of the Department of Public Enterprises have been issued on the recommendations of High Power Committees| Commission, keeping in view the autonomy and accountability of the public sector enterprises.

Items pending in the National Council of Consultative Machinery

3113. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the items which are still pending in the National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery of Central Government Employees and since when;

(b) whether it is a fact that Employees Federations, Confederations and other Central Government Employees Associations are pressing for early settlement of the items pending in the National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery; and

(c) if so, by when the decisions are likely to be taken by the Government on these pending items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Items taken up in the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery which is the forum for continuing negotiations with the staff side for settlement of disputes remain pending if final decisions on them, by way of agreement or disagreement are not taken in the council meetings. Such pending items are further discussed in the meetings of the Council, Standing Committee of the National Council or remitted to committees of the National Council for further examination.

As on today 24 items are pending for disposal in the National Council|Standing Committee and 17 items are pending with the various Committees of the National Council.

(b) and (c) Since decisions on Joint Consultative Machinery items are taken in continuous negotiation with the Staff

Side, no specific time limit can be given for settling all the pending items. Both the Official Side and Staff Side seek settlement of such items as early as possible.

USSR pressure on India to buy VVER-440 Atomic power plant

3114. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USSR is presurising the Government to buy VVER-440 type nuclear power plant which is based on an outmoded technology and none of the reactors under construction in USSR is of VVER-440 type; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to buy these atomic power plants from USSR; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY; ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of USSR has offered to assist India in the setting up of 440 MWe pressurised light water reactors using enriched uranium. Discussions are continuing on technical, economic and other aspects of the offer.

Disparities in the Regional development

3115. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what achievements have been made in removing disparities in regional development during the successive Five Year Plans in the country stating the areas in which a balanced development in the various regions has been achieved;

(b) which of the State Governments have shown unsatisfactory results in removing the disparities in the development of regions of their respective States and what are the areas in which wide disparities in development continue to exist stating the comparative percentage of people below the poverty line in these regions as against the percentage of people below the poverty line in the developed regions; and

(c) what are the details of the plans and strategies drawn up by Government for removal of disparities in regional development stating the nature and the quantum of the Central assistance proposed to be given to the various State Governments to implement the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The development of backward regions within the States is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Several States have identified backward regions within their respective territories and adopted an additive funding approach for accelerating their development. Similarly, the Centre has taken measures for accelerating the development of relatively backward States broadly classified as Special Category States (Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Skkim, Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh), which have a weak resource base and also relatively low capacity to mobilise their own resources; and the States whose per capita income is less than the national average (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan). Statement-I showing the comparative position regarding the percentage of population below the poverty line in these two categories of States and in other States in the year 1977-78 and 1983-84 is enclosed (*See below*).

(c) Details of the measures being taken to remove inter-State disparities in development include the following:

(i) transfer of resources from the Central Government to the State Governments for meeting their Plan expenditure according to a formula which is weighted in favour of the backward States whose per capita income is below the national average;

(ii) devolution of non-Plan resources in accordance with the award of the Eighth Finance Commission which favours the backward States and seeks to reduce regional imbalances between the States in addition to covering the revenue gaps;